

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A combined battery comprising two end plates and a plurality of cells stacked adjacent each other and bound by the two end plates,
wherein each of the cells is provided with a battery container made of resin,
the plurality of cells are bound by the two end plates under a condition that a balance position P between an expanded cell and a compressed cell in an F-S curve is set to be equal to or lower than a threshold value at which no more than a predetermined amount of irreversible deformation is caused in the battery container, based on a number and a compressibility of the plurality of cells and stiffness of the battery container ~~with a binding force equal to or lower than a threshold value determined based on a number and a compressibility of the cells and stiffness of the battery container, in such a manner that irreversible deformation beyond an expansion limit of the battery container will not be caused by expansion of the battery container during use,~~
and
the battery container is in a compressed state due to the binding force immediately after assembly of the combined battery.
2. (Original) A combined battery according to claim 1, wherein the cell includes an electrode plate group containing positive electrode plates and negative electrode plates stacked adjacent each other with separators interposed therebetween, and
the cells are stacked in a direction corresponding to a stacking direction of the electrode plate group.